

X-FACTOR

DAVID • KIRK • MILLA



YARDIN

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X-FACTOR



PREVIOUSLY...

BECAUSE BIRTHS ALWAYS GO SMOOTHLY IN "X-FACTOR," A HORRIFIED RAHNE GAVE BIRTH TO HER SON BY MEANS OF IT CRAWLING OUT OF HER MOUTH AND PROMPTLY, BRUTALLY KILLING RAHNE'S CAPTOR, AGAMEMNON. THIS CAUSED HER TO FREAK OUT SOMEWHAT AND THE UNWANTED CHILD FLED INTO THE WOODS, ONLY TO BE "ADOPTED" BY JACK RUSSELL, THE WEREWOLF BY NIGHT. MEANWHILE, A TRIP TO THE OLD MADROX HOMESTEAD IN KANSAS RESULTED IN A CHANCE MEETING BETWEEN MADROX AND THE CURRENT RESIDENT OF THE HOMESTEAD, A WOMAN NAMED SALLY AND HER SON, TERRY. UNBEKNOWNST TO MADROX, SALLY IS NOW DEAD. BUT HE'S GOING TO FIND OUT BEFORE TOO LONG.

MEANWHILE, PETER AND HIS EIGHT-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER CAROLINE JUST CAME BACK FROM THE D23 CONVENTION IN ANAHEIM. SATURDAY WAS TOTALLY SOLD OUT. WONDER IF THE MARVEL PRESENTATION OF THE 2012 FILM "THE AVENGERS" HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT?

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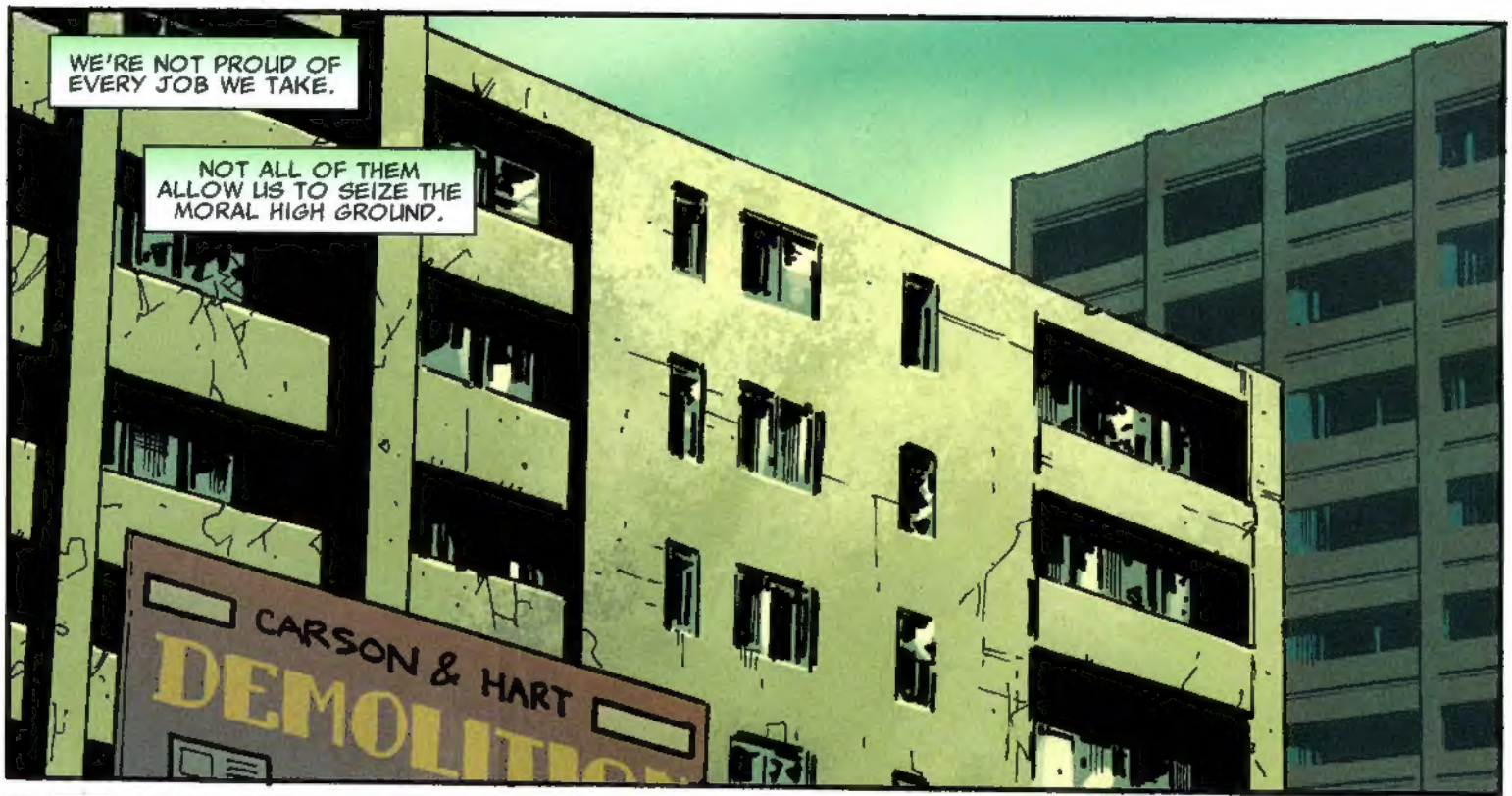
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WE'RE NOT PROUD OF EVERY JOB WE TAKE.

NOT ALL OF THEM ALLOW US TO SEIZE THE MORAL HIGH GROUND.



IN FACT...A LOT OF THEM DON'T.

SOMETIMES YOU JUST NEED TO PAY THE BILLS.

LOOK... THIS PLACE HAS BEEN CONDEMNED! I HAVE A CONTRACT WITH THE CITY TO TEAR IT DOWN!

AND A CONTRACT WITH OUR UNION TO DO THE JOB!



BUT I DON'T NEED ALL OF YOU! IF YOU'D JUST ACCEPT THE OFFER FOR HALF OF--

NO DEAL!

YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO STRONG-ARM--

WE'RE JUST TRYING TO GET WHAT WE'RE DUE!



LOOK... YOU'RE FORCING ME TO--



TO WHAT? HIRE SCABS? GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.

AND WHAT'LL YOU USE TO TAKE IT DOWN? EXPLOSIVES? WRECKING BALL?

YOU CAN'T DO THAT WITHOUT UNION TALENT.



ACTUALLY, IT TURNS OUT I CAN.

OKAY. DO IT.

YOU CAN'T JUST ORDER--

WASN'T TALKING TO YOU.



WHAT THE--?

EARTHQUAKE!

THERE'S NO FAULT LINES IN MANHATTAN!



ACTUALLY, THAT'S NOT TRUE. IT'S NO SAN ANDREAS, BUT THERE'S A MINOR FAULT LINE RUNNING DOWN 125TH STREET.

AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT RICTOR SAYS...



...AND HE'S THE EXPERT ON THESE THINGS.

YOU SURE YOU GOT THIS UNDER CONTROL, RIC?

YOU KIDDING? THIS IS WHAT I WAS BORN FOR, MADDY.



YEAH, UH... THAT'S A NICKNAME THAT BETTER NOT STICK.

WHATEVER, DUDE, NOW CLAM UP...



...AND WATCH ME BRING DOWN THE HOUSE.



RICTOR SWORE THAT HE COULD
USE HIS EARTHQUAKE POWERS
TO EMULATE THE ACTIONS OF A
CONTROLLED IMPLSION.

I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED
SINCE HE'S ONLY RECENTLY
REACQUIRED HIS POWERS.

LOOKS LIKE
MY FEARS WERE
GROUNDLESS.



BOOM
SHAKALAKAI!

I'M BACK,
BABY!*

*WHAT THE WHO??!! RICTOR GOT HIS POWERS BACK??
MISSED OUT ON THE EMPOWERING MOMENT? CHECK OUT
AVENGERS: CHILDREN'S CRUSADE #61 -PAD





RAHNE?
YUH
CARE TO
TALK?



NO.
AH JUST
WANNA EAT
AND EAT AND
KEEP EATING
UNTIL AH
PUKE.

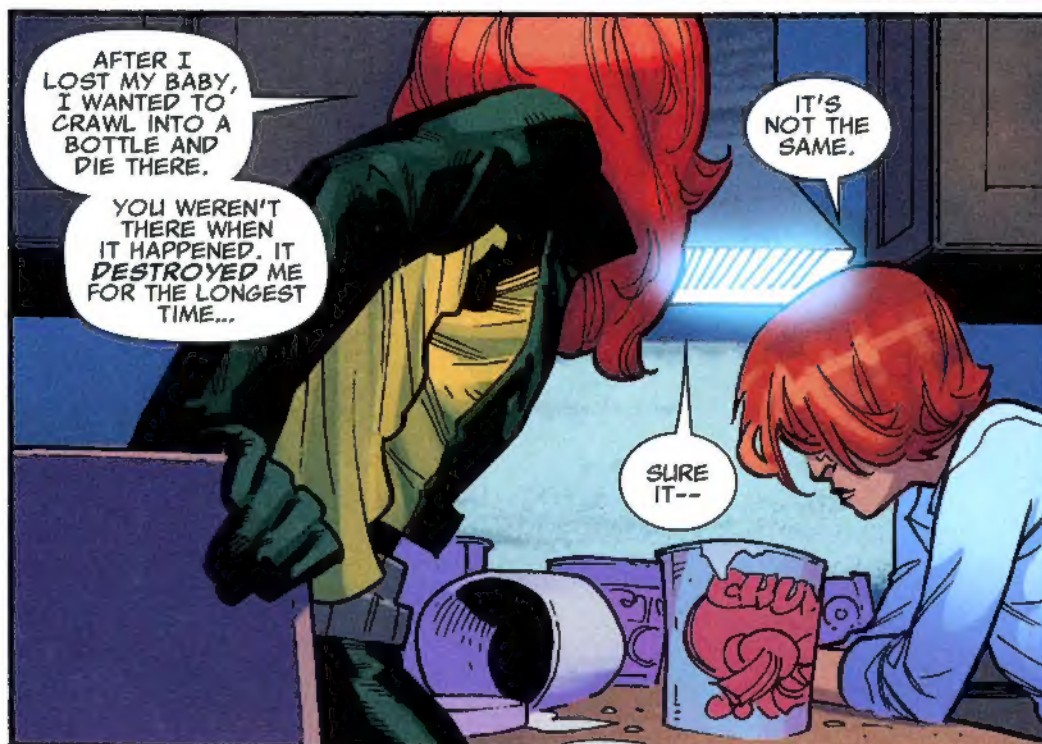
YEAH?
AND, LIHM...
HOW'S THAT
WORKIN' OUT
FOR YUH?



NOT AS
WELL AS AH'D
HOPED.

AH'M THINKIN'
OF TRYIN' T'DRINK
MUHSELF INTO A
STUPOR NEXT.

BEEN
THERE,
DONE
THAT.



AFTER I
LOST MY BABY,
I WANTED TO
CRAWL INTO A
BOTTLE AND
DIE THERE.

YOU WEREN'T
THERE WHEN
IT HAPPENED. IT
DESTROYED ME
FOR THE LONGEST
TIME...

IT'S
NOT THE
SAME.

SURE
IT--



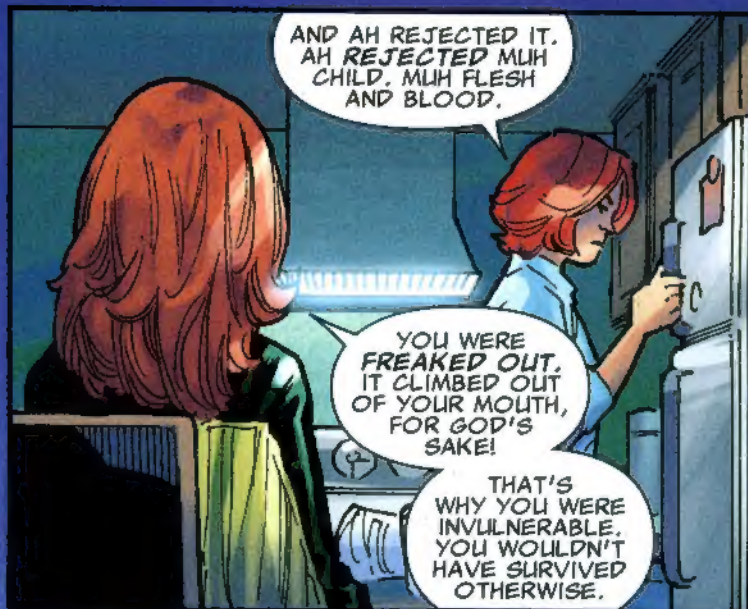
NO, IT'S
NOT.



AH HEARD WHAT HAPPENED WITH YE. HOW YUIR CHILD WAS ABSORBED INTO MADROX 'CAUSE IT WASN'T REAL.

IT FELT REAL TO ME. IT GREW IN MY BODY...

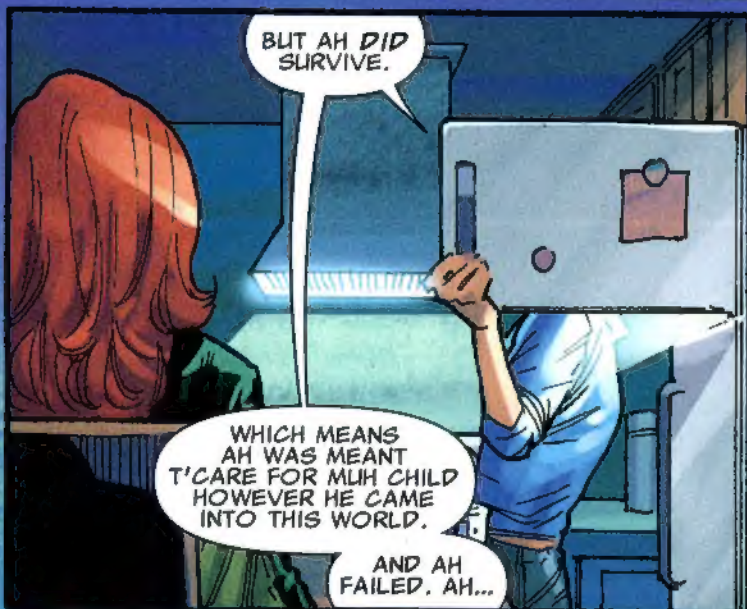
SO DID MINE...



AND AH REJECTED IT. AH REJECTED MUH CHILD. MUH FLESH AND BLOOD.

YOU WERE FREAKED OUT. IT CLIMBED OUT OF YOUR MOUTH, FOR GOD'S SAKE!

THAT'S WHY YOU WERE INVULNERABLE. YOU WOULDN'T HAVE SURVIVED OTHERWISE.



BUT AH DID SURVIVE.

WHICH MEANS AH WAS MEANT T'CARE FOR MUH CHILD HOWEVER HE CAME INTO THIS WORLD.

AND AH FAILED. AH...



GREAT. NO MORE BLOODY ICE CREAM.

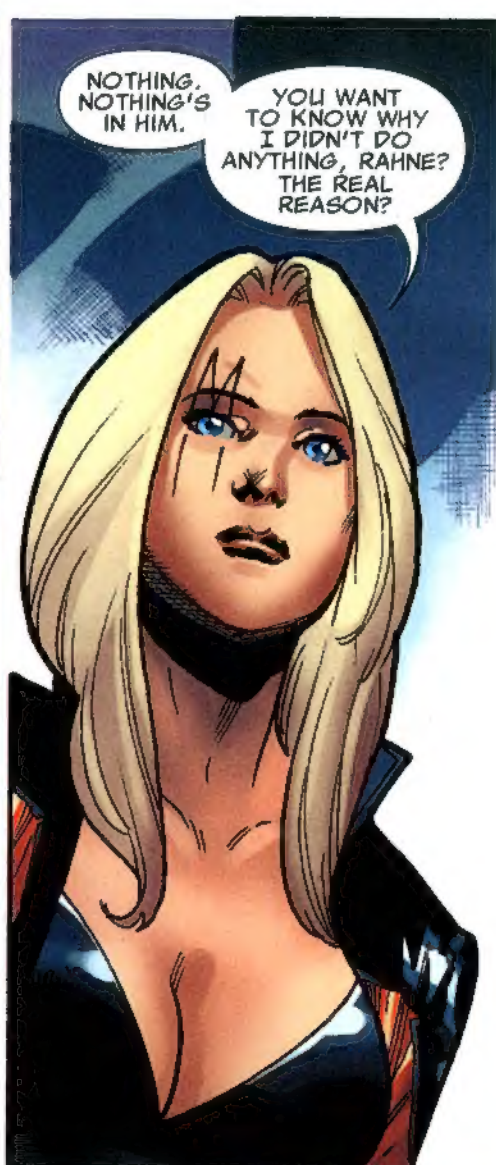
RAHNE, IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE THAT YOU'RE...



IT'S ALL MUH FAULT!

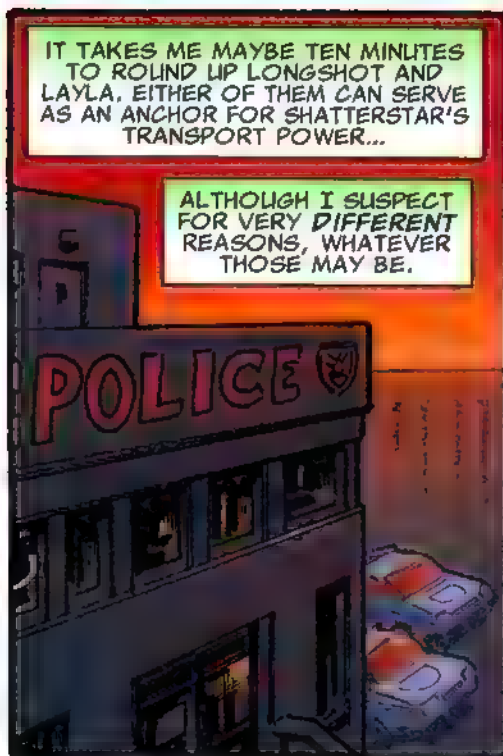
KRAASH











IT TAKES ME MAYBE TEN MINUTES TO ROUND UP LONGSHOT AND LAYLA. EITHER OF THEM CAN SERVE AS AN ANCHOR FOR SHATTERSTAR'S TRANSPORT POWER...

ALTHOUGH I SUSPECT FOR VERY DIFFERENT REASONS, WHATEVER THOSE MAY BE.

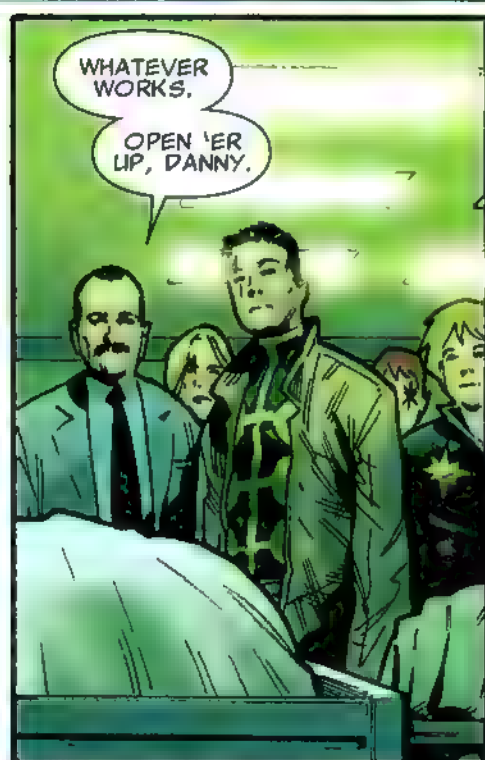


SEEMS A PRETTY AMATEUR MISTAKE, LEAVING YOUR CARD ON SOMEBODY YOU KILLED.

AT THE MOMENT I'M LEANING TOWARD INNOCENT BYSTANDER.

LESS YOU WANNA CONFESS? HELP EASE MY CASELOAD.

MAYBE I CAN EASE IT BY SOLVING IT.



WHATEVER WORKS.

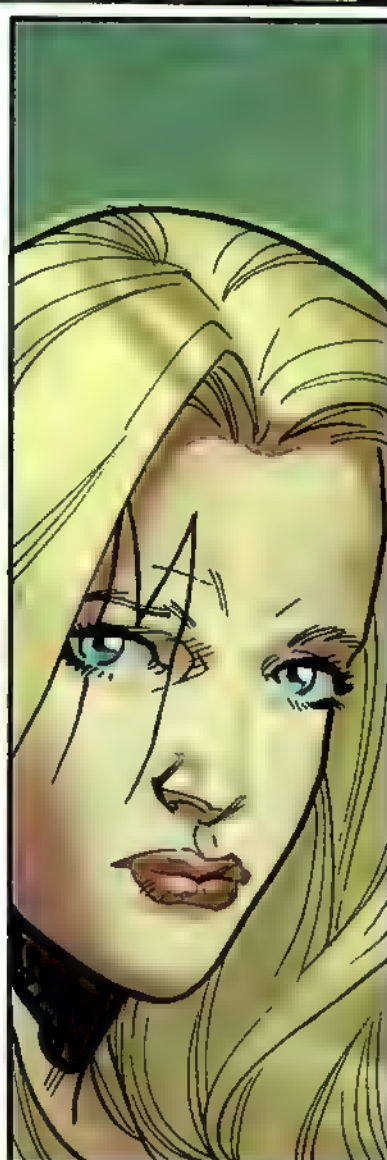
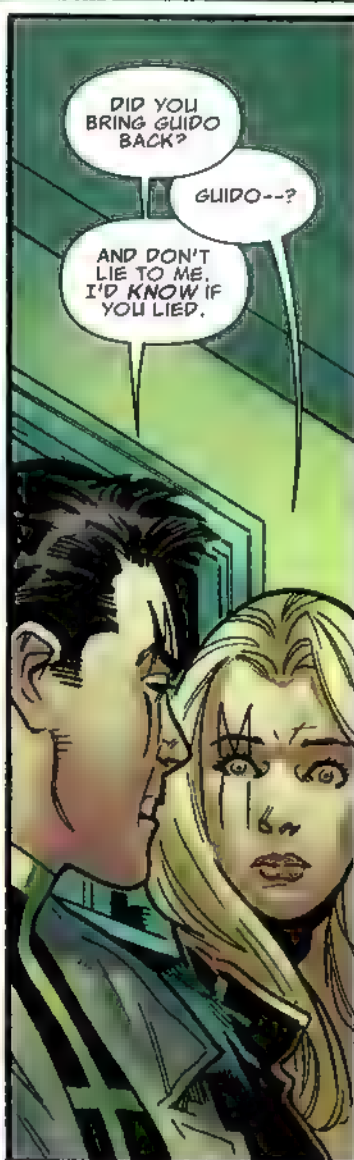
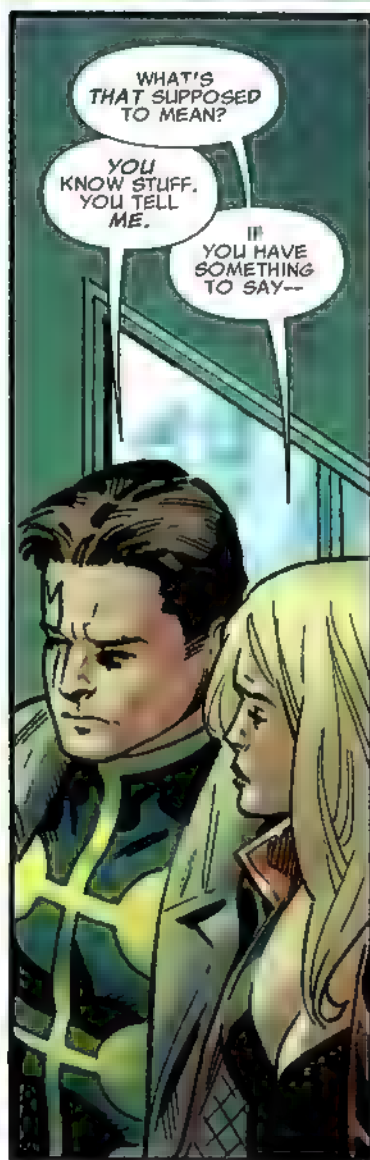
OPEN 'ER UP, DANNY.



MY GOD. WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?

BLUNT INSTRUMENT. A CROWBAR, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

LONGSHOT, CAN YOU GET A READ OFF HER? OR DO YOU NEED AN INANIMATE OBJECT?





WELL?

NOTHING.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "NOTHING"?

IT'S THE OPPOSITE OF "SOMETHING."

HEH. NEVER HAD MUCH FAITH IN THE WHOLE PSYCHIC BUSINESS.



HE'S FAR MORE THAN A PSYCHIC.

WHAT IS HE YOUR BOYFRIEND?

NO, MY BOYFRIEND'S BACK HOME. HE'S MY--



LET'S STAY FOCUSED, STAR.

I DID WHAT I USUALLY DO, MADROX, BUT IT'S LIKE SOMETHING WAS BLOCKING ME.



I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING COULD DO THAT.

NOTHING ON THIS EARTH CAN.

WELL, THAT ALONE TELLS US SOMETHING, ALTHOUGH DAMNED IF I KNOW WHAT.



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HER? MAYBE SOMETHING IN HER BACKGROUND...

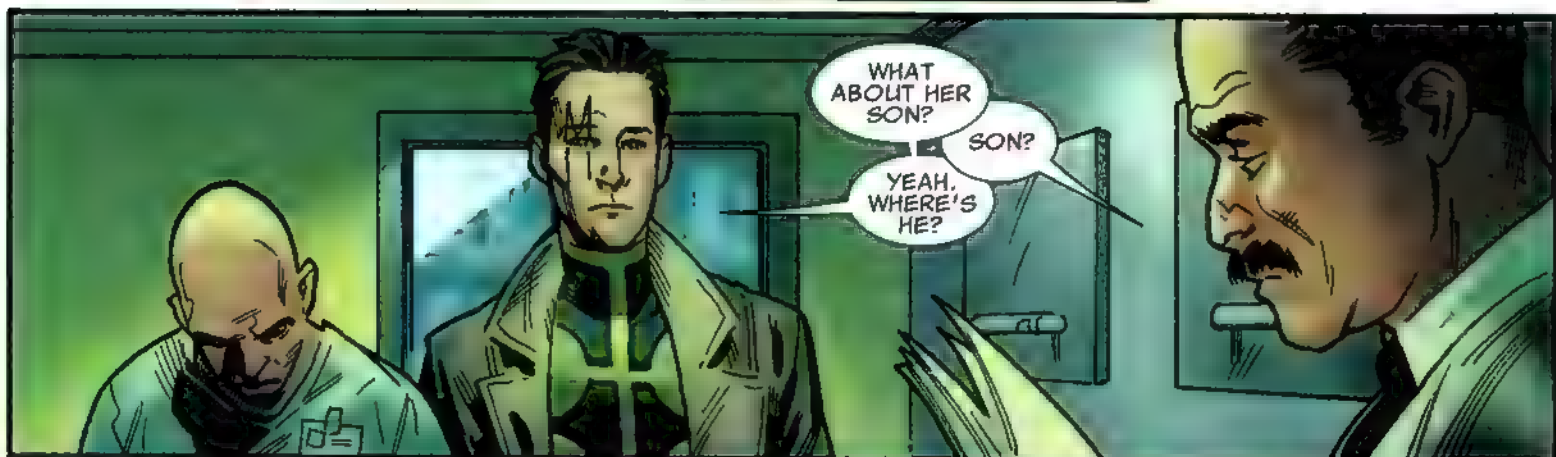
YOU MEAN HER CRIMINAL BACKGROUND?

WHAT?

GOT A RECORD LONG AS YOUR ARM. THAT'S HOW WE I.D.'D HER, THROUGH HER FINGERPRINTS.

CON GAMES, GRADUATED TO BANK ROBBERIES, ALL IN L.A. DIDN'T KILL ANYONE, WHICH IS SOMETHING, I GUESS.

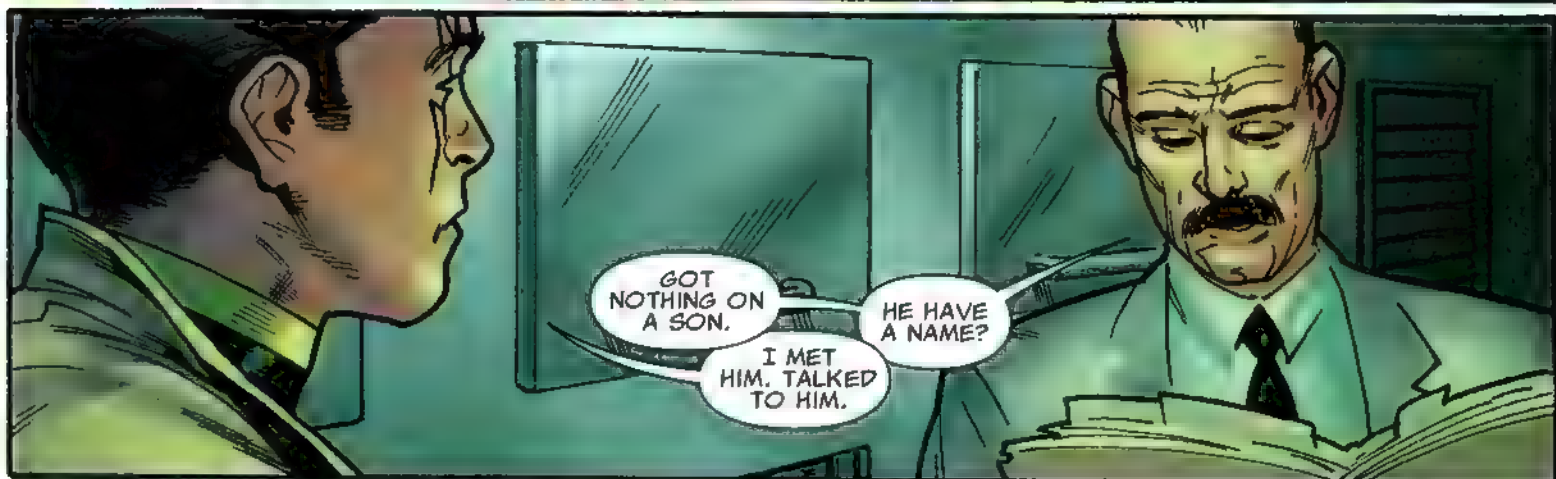
L.A.P.D. FINALLY NAILED HER, BUT ONE DAY SHE JUST DISAPPEARED FROM LOCKUP.



WHAT ABOUT HER SON?

SON?

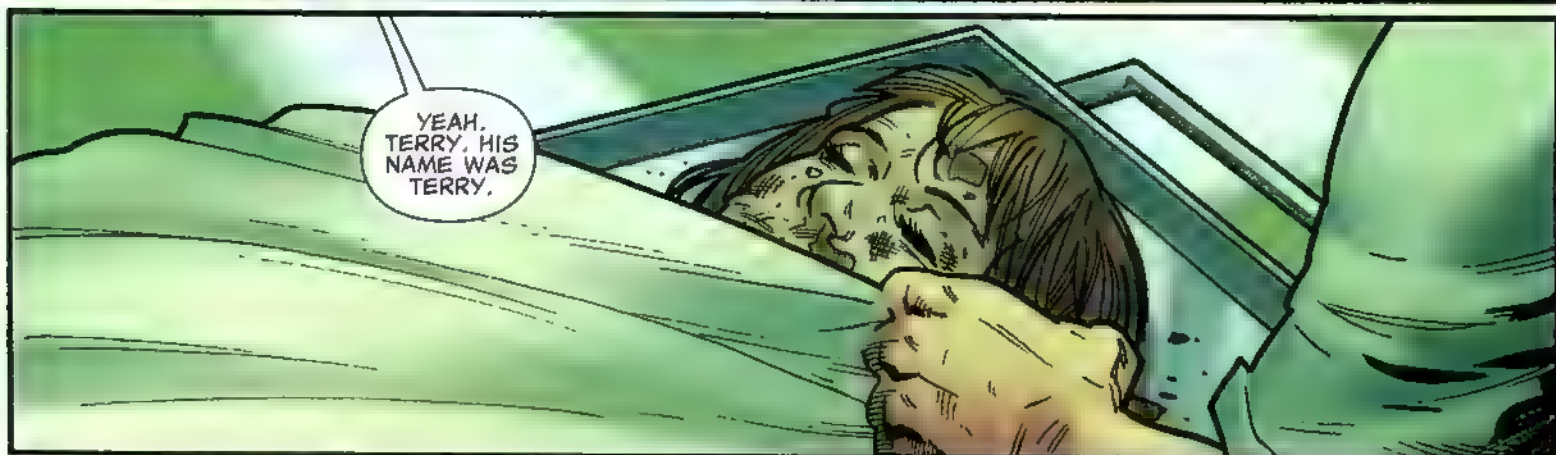
YEAH, WHERE'S HE?



GOT NOTHING ON A SON.

HE HAVE A NAME?

I MET HIM. TALKED TO HIM.



YEAH, TERRY. HIS NAME WAS TERRY.



TERRY!

AAAAHHH!!!



WHERE'S TERRY!?!?



HOLY CRAP!!!

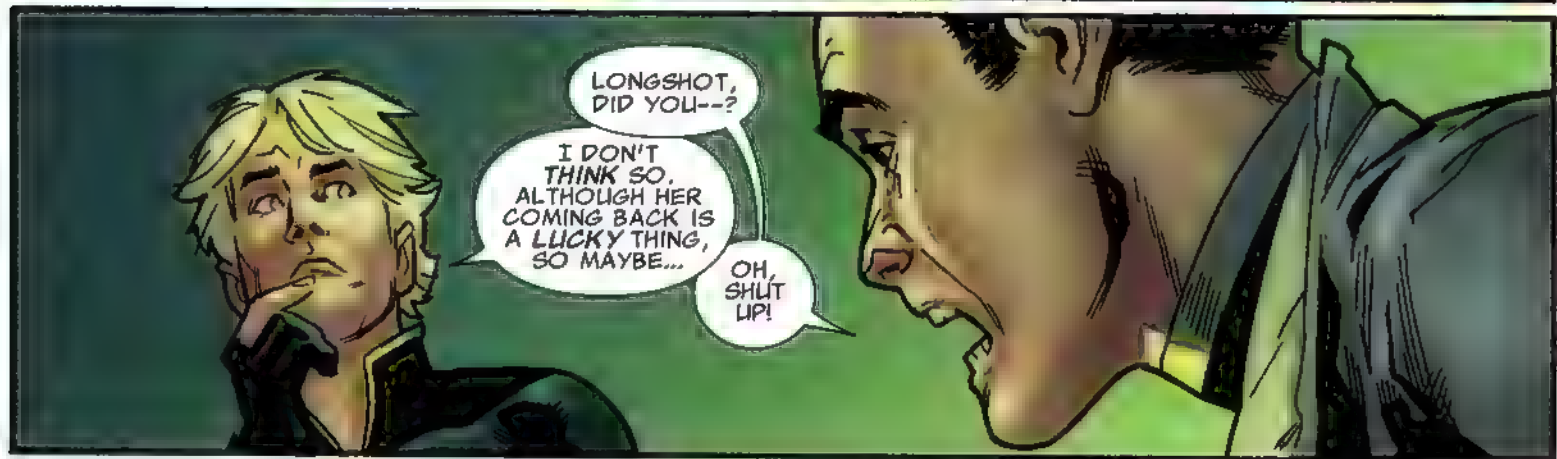


WHAT DID YOU DO?!

NOTHING, I SWEAR!

LAYLA--!

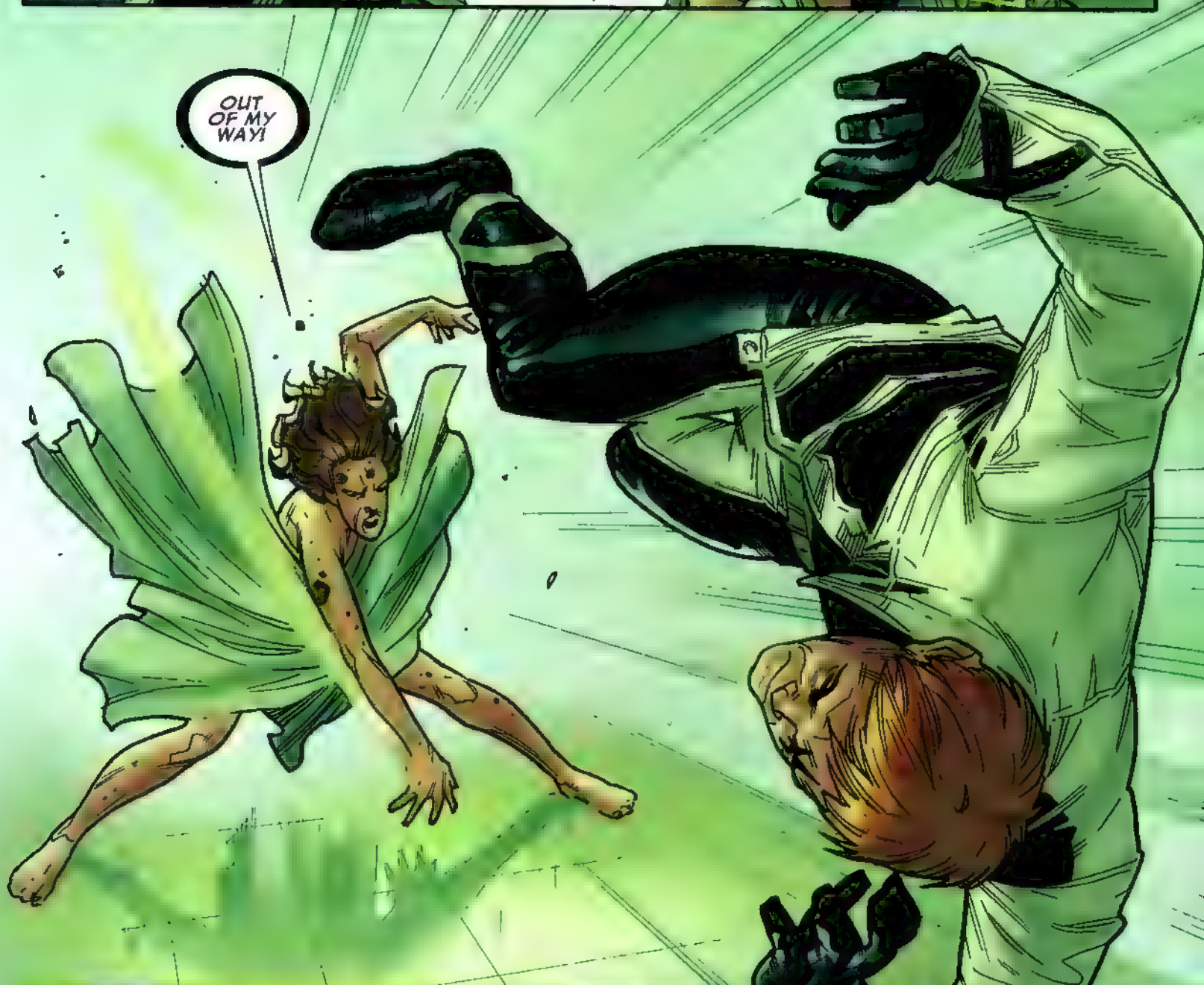
I WAS OVER HERE THE WHOLE TIME! I NEVER LAID A HAND ON HER! GO ASK LONGSHOT!

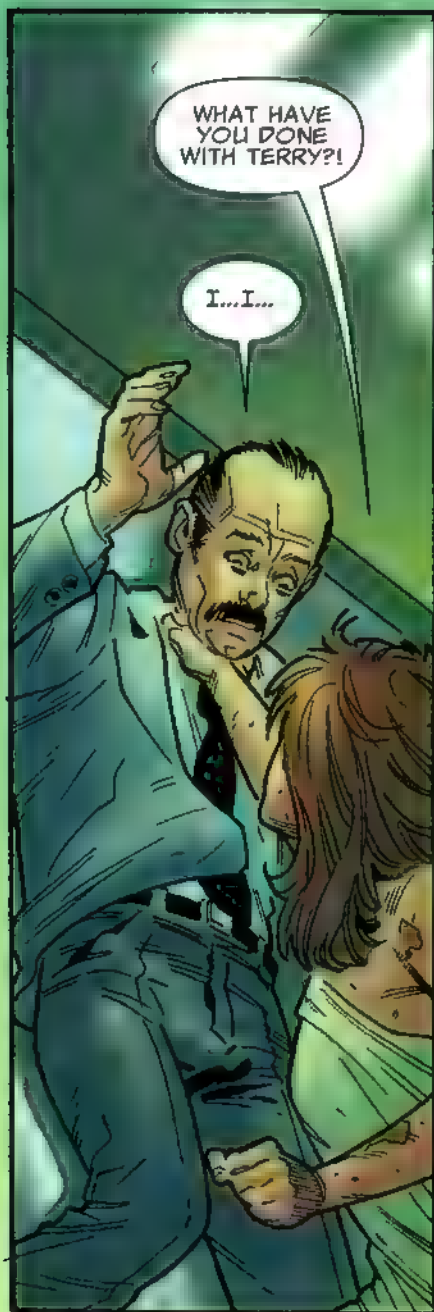


LONGSHOT, DID YOU--?

I DON'T THINK SO. ALTHOUGH HER COMING BACK IS A LUCKY THING, SO MAYBE...

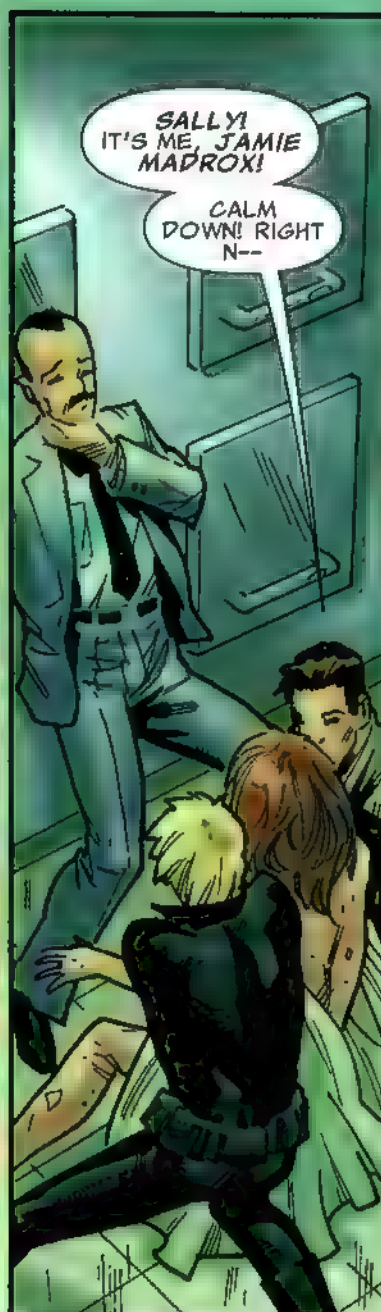
OH, SHUT UP!





WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH TERRY?!

I...I...



SALLY!
IT'S ME, JAMIE
MADROXI!

CALM
DOWN! RIGHT
N--



WHAT'S
HAPPENED
TO ME!

I...I CAN'T
FEEL MY HEART
BEATING! WHY
CAN'T I---?



BECAUSE
YOU'RE
DEAD!

AND WE
WANT TO KNOW
HOW YOU GOT
THAT WAY!

WE
REALLY
DO!

I DON'T
ACTUALLY,
BUT I'M JUST
OPERATING
ON HERD
INSTINCT.



WELL, WELL, WELL. LOOKEE WHAT WE HAVE HERE. A CONDUIT, A COUPLE OF GENETIC JUNKPILES, AND...



AH. AN ACOLYTE.

STAY OUT OF OL' B.B.'S AFFAIRS, ACOLYTE. THIS IS MY BUSINESS, MINE AND JASON'S.

YOU DON'T GIVE ME ORDERS.



HOW ABOUT I GIVE YOU A NICE HOLE WHERE YOUR HEART USED TO BE?



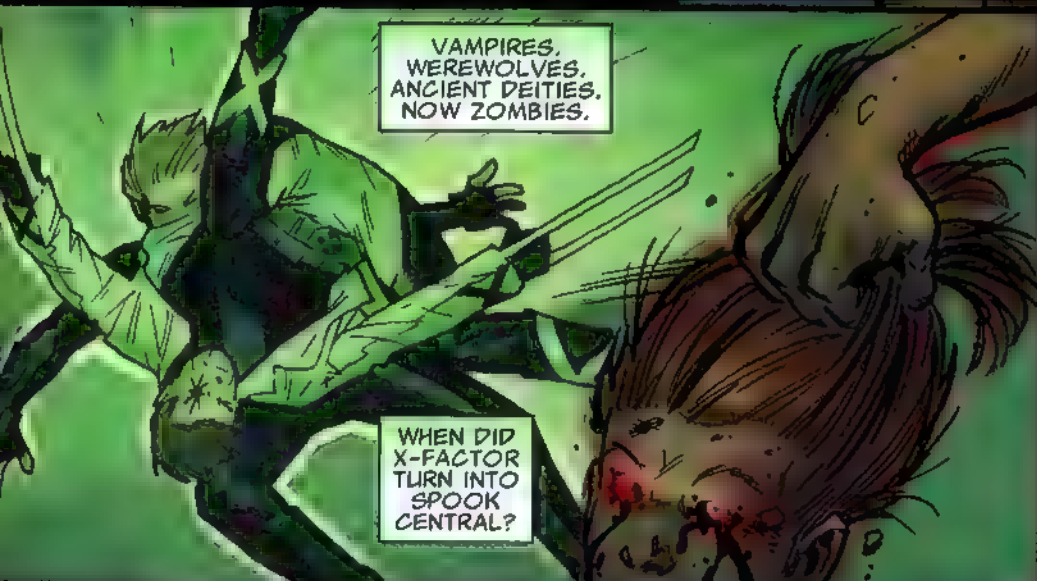
NYAAARRRHHHH--!



GET
AWAY FROM
HER!!



THE BODY DOESN'T EVEN
SLOW DOWN. IT TAKES OUT
SHATTERSTAR LIKE BEING
BEHEADED IS NOTHING.



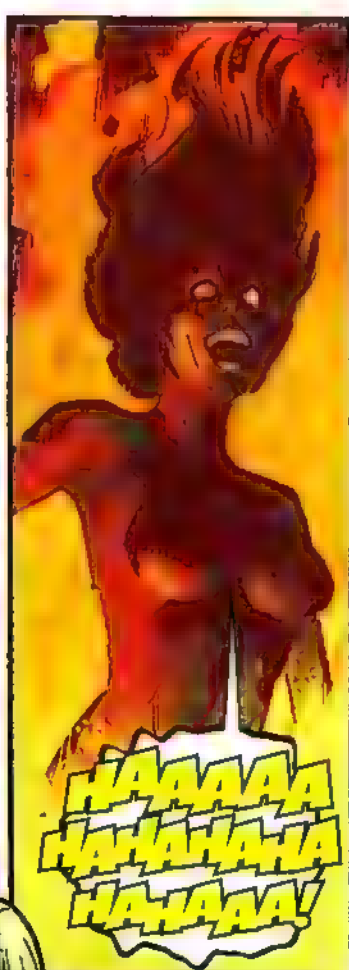
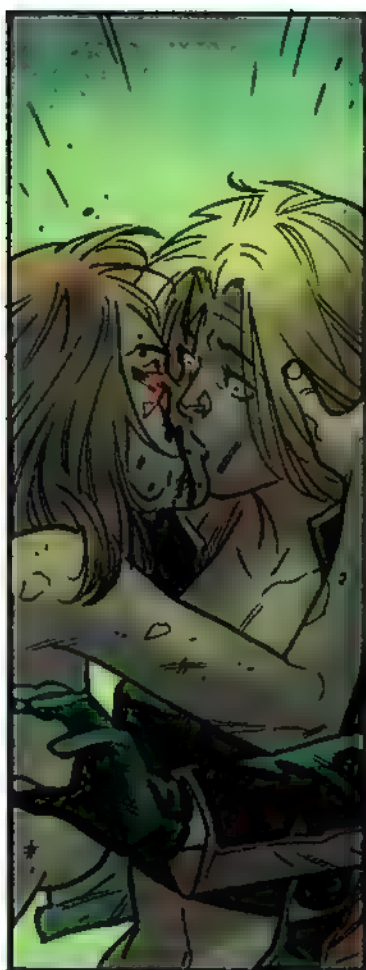
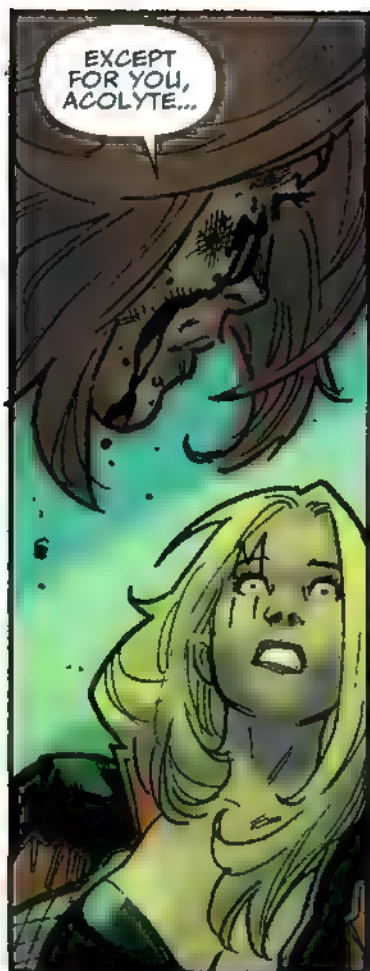
VAMPIRES,
WEREWOLVES,
ANCIENT DEITIES,
NOW ZOMBIES.

WHEN DID
X-FACTOR
TURN INTO
SPOOK
CENTRAL?



THIS WAS
A WARNING,
KIDDIES. GET
IN MY WAY
AGAIN...

...AND
I'LL KILL
YOU. ALL
OF YOU.



"I'D BE BETTER IF SHE HADN'T USED TONGUE."

X

X-FACTOR WITNESSES

Hey, kids, Peter David here. Once again here in the pages of X-FACTOR, we're trying to revive the lost art of letters pages. Sure, in this date of instant communication it may seem antiquated, but I dunno: as a fan I always looked forward to perusing the thoughts of fellow readers in the back pages of a comic. If nothing else, it prolonged the reading experience and provided a sense of community. And so, through the good graces of "Dapper" Dan Ketchum and Jordan "Handlebar" White, we give you guys, once again, the last word. As always, we reserve the right to edit for space, but we won't change meaning.

Dear Mr. Peter David,

I felt compelled to write you a letter because X-FACTOR is such a good series and I believe you should be thanked for that. It's rare that something awesome is published for such a long period of time, and if it is still published, it's rare that it has remained this consistently good (at least in the "big 2"). I feel this way after every single issue and after 80 plus (I lose count) issues, I figured it was time to thank you for providing me with hours upon hours of enlightening entertainment. The way you give each character a unique voice is amazing, especially considering your preference for using so-called 'B-list' X-Men. I actually care about what happens to these characters because it feels like I am watching real people interact in a way that real people would, even (maybe even especially so) the characters who aren't 'real people', what with Asgardians, mutants from alternate realities and Mojoversians running around. LOL. Anyway, to sum things up, I love your comic and I will buy every issue that you write, as well as encourage others to do the same. You, sir, kick ass.

Thanks again,
Nick Bassett

P.S. You made She-Hulk one of my top 10 favorite characters as well.

Thanks for the kind words, Nick. But this is hardly "The Peter David Show." However much you may like my scripting, your enjoyment would be severely diminished if it weren't for the great work of the rest of the team. In particular we have some dynamic pencils coming in from greats such as Emanuela, Valentine, and the latest addition to the team, old friend and previous collaborator Leonard Kirk. Without them...well, I actually don't like to think about what it would be like around here without them.

Dear Messrs. David, Madrox, et al,

So much for that N.O.W. Award for Least Gratuitous Abuse of a Female Character in Comic Books. Here's a concept: We get Rahne pregnant, kill the father, parade her around naked awhile, portray her self-loathing as a church strewn (literally) with blood and body parts, and have all the hoary hosts of Hell(s) try to steal her unborn baby—by slicing her open. Then, let's deny her the dignity of a "normal" childbirth by chaining her in a basement, where she can hork out the baby through her mouth (!?) and watch it disembowel someone. Just for kickers, we'll blast her newly-born pup through the roof and almost into the clutches of death herself, before "it" gets snatched by the Werewolf by Night.

OK. RAHNE SINCLAIR = TORTURED SOUL. WE GET IT. Mercy!

Vexedly Yours,
Mike Hickey
Monrovia, CA

Can't deny that Rahne's been having a tough slog, Mike. She has a lot to deal with. Then again, so did Theresa, and she's found a measure of peace since that time. How did she do so? Through the counseling of one John Maddox. And if that prompts you to think that a visit to the good reverend is in the offing for Rahne, well...you'd be right on the money. Believe it or not, I have a long-standing affection for Wolfsbane, if for no other reason than that I actually named her "Wolfsbane" back when Monsieur Claremont was first conceiving her character. So I want her to be happy, and I'm fixing to make sure that she becomes a more determined, less tortured soul in the months to come.

Hi,

Wow, Rahne Sinclair had her child. AWESOME !!! He was adorable. I hope Wolfsbane is reunited with her baby and doesn't turn her back to her child for too long at all. She has to get over her fear and have her mother instinct kick in. I don't believe her baby is evil at all, but was just born and defending himself from evil characters. He didn't attack Jack Russell, so he must have sensed his noble heart. Love to see Rahne stay connected to her mutant family. I also love to see Wolfsbane connect with the werewolves packs, too, for they are also a part of her family & roots too. It would make her a more interesting character.

As for Jack Russell, it is always so cool to see him. I really do like this character very much. I wish he had a larger role within Marvel Universe, especially now that he can control his werewolf changes and abilities. I would even love to see the Werewolf join The Avengers. He would make an interesting mix into the team. Who knows maybe you guys can even go as far as a romance between the Werewolf and Tigra. It would make for an interesting storyline, too.

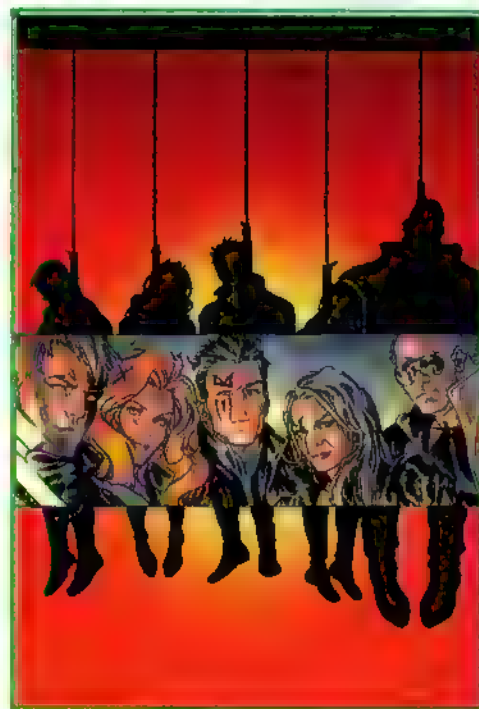
I do love Theresa Cassidy's new abilities with her voice, that she has the ability to control people's emotions with her voice. I wish to see her voice continue to be used in other more dangerous forms.

King Jason
San Francisco, CA

Well, your highness, we at X-Factor Central are on the same page with you when it comes to the more hirsute members of the Marvel Universe. As for Rahne's rejection of her infant, let's remember that she herself faced that exact same rejection from her own loved ones. How many of us find ourselves repeating certain cycles from childhood into adulthood? But that's something Rahne is going to realize and deal with, and the actions she takes next are going to have serious ramifications for our crew. As for Theresa, don't worry: we'll be seeing some more heavy-duty use of her vocal powers in issues to come.

-PAD

NEXT ISSUE:
Madrox and company just hang around.



On the tenth anniversary of America's greatest tragedy,
Marvel salutes and remembers America's greatest heroes.



The following pages feature reprinted materials from "A Moment of Silence"
and "Heroes" as they were originally published in the fall of 2001

MARVEL

What happened on September 11, 2001 was not God's will.

God's will was in the courage of every man, woman and child who stood up and came to the aid of their fellow humans.

God's will was in the strength that was shown in the face of great tragedy and the desire displayed to rebuild, to move on and to do so with love.

What you hold in your hands was created with love, and love will prevail...

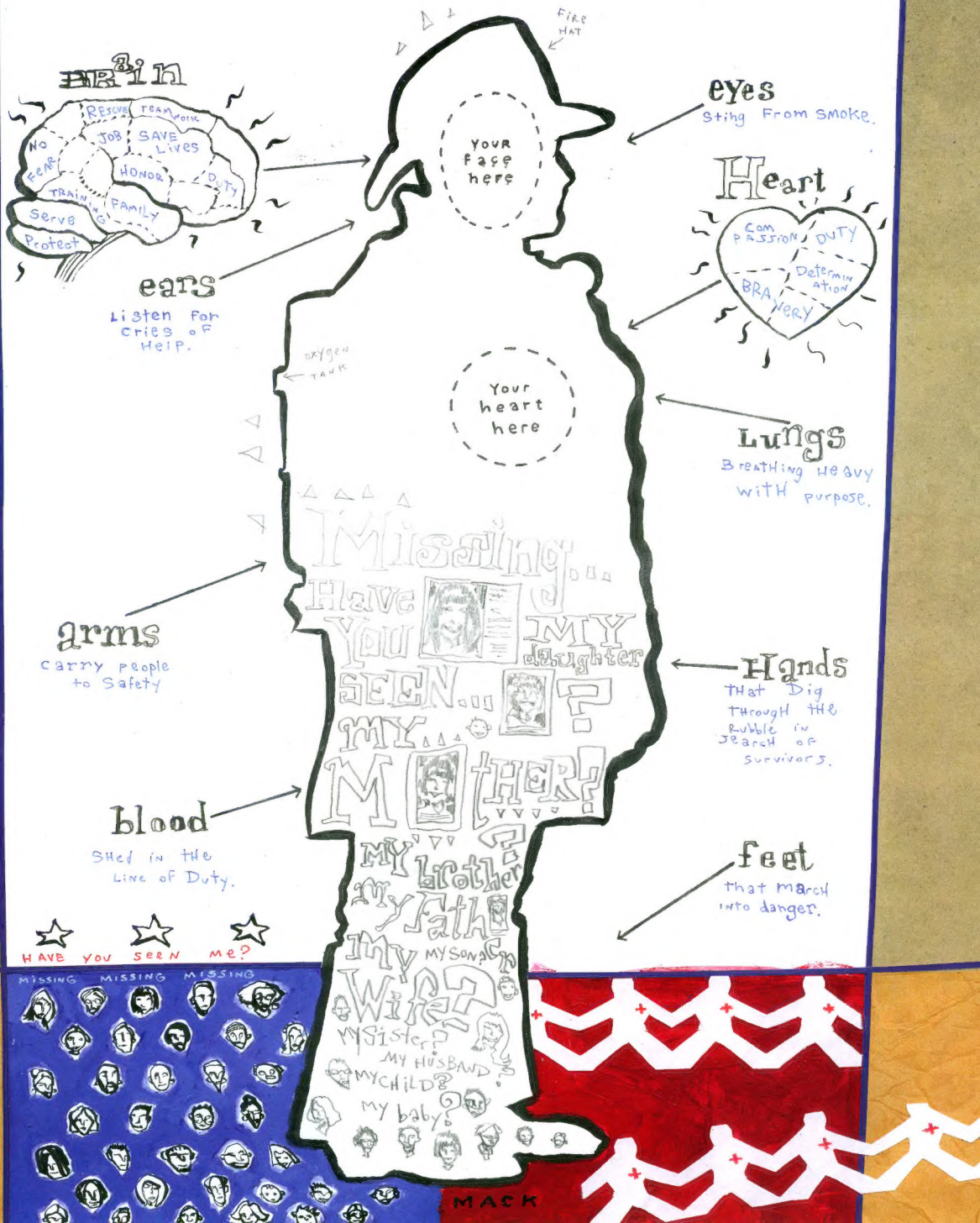
...God willing.

**Joe Quesada
Editor in Chief**





Diagram of Heroes





WITH LOVE
AND RESPECT TO
ALL THE REAL
HEROES OF
AMERICA
RAMOS
FAUCHER
delgado



Lizard *DER*